

Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2012

Members Present:

Debbie Weiner, Chairperson
James Bakunas, Member
Tara Dunning, Secretary
Donna Ferguson, Member
Jan Little, Vice Chairperson
Linda O'Rourke, Member
Janet Shelton, Member
Megan Waldschmidt, Member

Staff Present:

Michael J. Pinter, Coordinator

Members Absent:

Stephanie Snyder, Member

Call to Order:

Chairperson Debbie Weiner recognized that a quorum was present and called the regular meeting of the Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority to order at 6:10 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2012. The meeting was held at Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center, Springfield, Illinois. Welcome and introductions were made.

Confidentiality Statement:

The Coordinator read the confidentiality statement which indicates that personally identifiable information will not be presented in public meetings in order to protect the privacy of those disabled persons on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

Changes to the Agenda:

The Chairperson reviewed the agenda and asked for changes; no changes were made.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the November 29, 2011 meeting were reviewed. **A motion was made by Janet Shelton to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Linda O'Rourke. Motion carried.**

Communications:

Pinter discussed Colbert v. Quinn. The RBF/ACLU of Illinois and other advocacy organizations filed a third lawsuit against the State of Illinois for violation of the Americans with Disability Act, the Rehabilitation Act and Medicaid for unnecessary institution of persons with physical disabilities. The case alleges that Illinois

unnecessarily and illegally confines those with physical disabilities to nursing homes as a prerequisite to receiving necessary services. The lawsuit seeks to compel the state to change its historic bias toward treatment in institutions and its failure to develop or allow sufficient treatment options in community settings.

New Business:

New complaints –

12-050-9011 – A nursing home does not maintain appropriate care, including updates regarding care for pressure sores, updated treatment plans regarding care and changing needs for care. Evidence that a resident had not been attended to (repositioned) for 5 hours during a shift.

A motion was made by Linda O'Rourke to table opening case 12-050-9011 for investigation until the coordinator can obtain and review a copy of the report and plan of correction from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Janet Shelton seconded this motion. Motion carried.

12-050-9014 – A person was admitted to a regional hospital psychiatric unit feels that the hospital did not offer adequate and humane treatment.

A motion was made by Jan Little to table case 12-050-9014 for investigation until a signed release of information is received. Linda O'Rourke seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

A motion was made by Megan Waldschmidt and seconded by Tara Dunning to enter into closed session at 6:29 p.m. pursuant to Section 721 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act to discuss confidential and potentially identifiable information.

A. Case Progress Reports:

11-050-9012 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center – stolen property – the complainant has not responded to the Coordinator's attempts to contact him.

12-050-9013 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center – teeth – *this case has not been investigated.*

B. Reports of Findings:

11-050-9006 - Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center -

11-050-9017 – Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center – NOR's

12-050-9008 – Capital Care – fee for transportation to doctor appointments

12-050-9010 – SPARC – personal fund management

12-050-9012 – Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center – admission

A motion to reconvene open session was made by Linda O'Rourke and seconded by Donna Ferguson at 7:03 p.m.

Upon a motion by Janet Shelton, seconded by Debbie Weiner, members voted to approve the reports of findings with the suggested revisions and pending administrative approval.

C. Case Closures:

12-050-9001 – Motion by Waldschmidt to remain open and continue to pursue. Seconded by Little. Motion carried.

12-050-9003 – Motion by Shelton to table awaiting a response. Seconded by Waldschmidt. Motion carried.

12-050-9004 – Motion by O'Rourke to close case. Seconded by Dunning. Motion carried.

12-050-9006 – Motion by Shelton to close case. Seconded by Ferguson. Motion carried.

Announcements and Comments:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center.

Site Visits:

There are no site visits at this time.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara Dunning, Secretary

Date Approved